	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/046,103	NUBER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Boris Benenson	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *4/19/2004*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1 and 4-21*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *11/01/2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some* .c) ☐ None   of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No: _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the

          International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

       Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____ .

GREGORY J. TOATLEY, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Detailed Actions

1.   Amendment received on 4/19/2004 is entered.

2.   The Specification (Page 5, Line 27 – Page 6, Line 3) is amended.

3.   Claims 1, 4-10, and 15 are amended. Claims 2 and 3 previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 4-21 are pending in the Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   Claims 1 and 4-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5.   Independent Claims 1 is allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose an integrated circuit comprising a buffer for reducing delays on relatively long conductive signal lines wherein the buffer includes a protection diode connected to a gate of one transistor of a first inverter of the buffer to prevent the buffer from being damaged by too much electrical charge on the gate in combination with the other claim limitations.

Claims 4-9 are dependent on Claim 1 and therefore allowable.

6.   Independent Claim 10 is allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose a method for preventing a buffer used for

reducing delays on relatively long conductive signal lines of an

IC wherein the buffer includes a protection diode connected to a

gate of one transistor of a first inverter of the buffer to

prevent the buffer from being damaged by too much electrical

charge on the gate and wherein the buffer and the protecting

diode are formed on the IC in combination with the other claim

limitations.

Claims 11-20 are dependent on Claim 10 and therefore

allowable.

7.   Independent Claim 21 is allowable because none of the prior

art of record disclose a method for use in designing an

integrated circuit comprising a step of inserting buffer cells

for reducing delays on relatively long conductive signal lines

wherein each buffer cell comprising first and second inverters

and a protection diode connected to an input of the first

inverter inside of the IC in combination with the other claim

limitations.

8.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to

avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
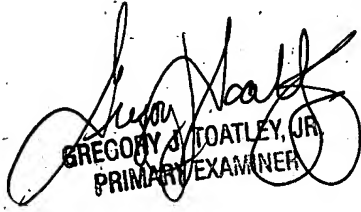
Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Benenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2048. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:20-6:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800 x 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Boris Benenson
Examiner
Art Unit 2836

B.B.

GREGORY J. TOATLEY, JR
PRIMARY EXAMINER